



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board News Release



Forest Service

For Immediate Release
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Contact:
Justin Koller/Perry Edwards
907-747-4297, 907-747-4220
jpkoller@fs.fed.us
pedwards@fs.fed.us

Under the authority of:

36 CFR Part 242.10 and .19
50 CFR Part 100.10 and .19

BLUE LAKE, MEDVEJIE LAKE AND SOUTH KATLIAN RIVER WATERSHEDS ON BARANOF ISLAND IN UNIT 4 ARE CLOSED TO THE HARVEST OF MOUNTAIN GOATS

The Sitka District Ranger, under authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board, is taking action to close the watersheds of Blue Lake, Medvejie Lake and the southern half of the Katlian River to the harvest of mountain goats. The closure will be effective at 12:01 a.m., Monday, Aug. 11, 2014 and will remain in effect through the remainder of the 2014 season which ends Dec. 31. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has issued a closure in the same watersheds, effective Aug. 1, 2014 to the close of the season on Dec. 31, 2014. Continued mountain goat harvest in these areas would be detrimental to the long term conservation of the mountain goat population.

A public hearing to discuss the 2014 Baranof Island Mountain Goat Management Plan was held on Aug. 7th, 2014 in Sitka, Alaska. The ability to teleconference was provided so residents of other affected communities could participate. Members of the public who attended were not opposed to conserving mountain goats on Baranof Island through closures guided by the management plan. The 2014 management plan is similar to the 2013 plan with distinct male and female guideline harvest levels by zones on Baranof Island. As in prior seasons, nanny harvest will be more restrictive than billy harvest when applied to the point total. If and when point totals are met, special actions will be issued to close additional watersheds or zones to prevent over harvest of mountain goats.

The remainder of Baranof Island will remain open for goat hunting unless closed by future special action.

A map and description of the closed areas are available from the Sitka Ranger District Office and the Sitka area office of ADF&G. Information on Federal subsistence management special actions for the Tongass National Forest can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/news/tongass/news-events>.

For additional information, contact the Sitka Ranger District. Justin Koller (Subsistence Biologist) may be reached by phone at 907-747-4297 or e-mail at jpkoller@fs.fed.us. Perry Edwards (District Ranger) may be reached by phone at 907-747-4220 or e-mail at pedwards@fs.fed.us.

Information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found at <http://www.doi.gov/subsistence>

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